

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-5 and 9 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found at least in Figure 2 and on page 5, lines 13-19. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application.

Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,591,150 to Shirota (hereinafter "Shirota"). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The invention as claimed recites several novel features, including "a fault detecting section for detecting a fault of the local wireless LAN base station in which it resides and generating a fault detection signal" and "a power control section for placing the local wireless LAN base station in an active state or a standby state according to a command received from the duplex control section." (Independent claim 1) Analogous features appear in independent claims 2-5 and 9. Thus, according to the present invention, each wireless LAN base station is able to detect its own faults and generate a fault detection signal. Further, each wireless LAN base station includes the ability to place itself in an active or standby state according to a command received from the duplex control section.

Shirota fails to teach the feature of "a fault detecting section for detecting a fault of the local wireless LAN base station in which it resides and generating a fault detection signal." Faults in the local Base Station Controllers (BSCs) are detected in Shirota by the Operation and Maintenance Radio Centers (OMCRs). The OMCRs remotely collect state information of the BSCs (column 9, lines 31-41). This is in contrast to the invention as claimed, in which each wireless LAN base station contains a fault detecting section that detects a fault in the

base station in which it resides and then generates a fault detection signal. There is no teaching or suggestion in Shirota of a BSC detecting its own fault, or generating a fault detection signal of that fault. Thus, Shirota fails to teach or suggest this feature of the invention as claimed.

Shirota also fails to teach or suggest the feature of “a power control section for placing the local wireless LAN base station in an active state or a standby state according to a command received from the duplex control section.” Shirota utilizes a monitoring control apparatus with a plurality of monitored control apparatuses to form a stable communication network. When the monitored control apparatus is unable to connect to a main monitoring control apparatus, it switches to a backup monitored control apparatus. There is no teaching or suggestion in Shirota that a monitoring control apparatus would send a signal to a monitored control apparatus to place it in an active or backup mode. Rather, the state of each monitored control apparatus is periodically queried and reported to the monitoring control apparatus in Shirota, but there is no indication that commands are issued by the monitoring control apparatus to place the monitored control apparatus in any particular state. In fact, the state of Shirota is quite distinct from the state of the invention as claimed. For example, the state information of Shirota is related to control information: “Control State: Incomplete (Transferring twenty-second packet (22/57) of the total of fifty-seven packets).” (column 11, lines 55-58) There is no indication or teaching that this state information could be utilized to change the power state of a monitored control apparatus. For example, if a failure is detected, the monitored control apparatus switches to a backup based upon a stored address of which monitoring control apparatus is considered to be a backup. (column 6, lines 5-15)

Thus, Shirota fails to teach or suggest the features of the invention as claimed in the independent claims, specifically failing to teach both “a fault detecting section for detecting a fault of the local wireless LAN base station in which it resides and generating a fault detection signal” and “a power control section for placing the local wireless LAN base station in an active state or a standby state according to a command received from the duplex control section.” If this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where these features are found in Shirota.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole. As mentioned above, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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